



Date: **October 24, 2023**
Prepared by: **Lisa Demers, Superintendent of Education**
Subject: **Name Selected by Catholic Community for New South Chatham School**

Background

The selection of a school name is a significant step in the process of establishing a new school community. From the name, the culture and ethos of a school community will evolve. Within a Catholic school community, the school's name is intended to forge a connection with a Saint or other significant Catholic individual or tradition, whose gifts or meaning will provide a focus for the school and develop a unique identity and spiritual bond for the students, parents, and staff.

The name that has been selected by our south Chatham Catholic elementary school and parish communities is ***St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School***, which we believe to be the perfect identifier for the new school.

The process used to gather input from our stakeholders was the online tool *Thoughtexchange*, which was also successfully used in the naming of our north Chatham school, St. Angela Merici. The *Thoughtexchange* was utilized following student research in both schools learning about numerous Saints.

An invitation to the *Thoughtexchange* consultation was sent by direct email to all parents/guardians, and all staff and students of the Georges P. Vanier and St. Ursula Catholic school communities which included families from the previous St. Joseph Catholic school. This information was also published in the parish bulletin.

The two-week *Thoughtexchange* resulted in 263 participants sharing 221 thoughts about the names and rating the suggestions of others 12,340 times. The multiple suggestions of names pertaining to St. Teresa of Calcutta emerged as the clear choice – the name most valued by the community.

Sister Teresa experienced divine inspiration to devote herself to caring for the sick and poor. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and became known as Mother Teresa. Under Mother Teresa's guidance, her order also tended to the blind, the aged, and the disabled.

Mother Teresa left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope, and extraordinary charity. Her response to Jesus' plea, "Come be My light," made her a Missionary of Charity, a "mother to the poor, and a symbol of compassion to the world.

The Diocese of London recognizes that Mother Teresa was one of the great humanitarians of our age. She has shown the world how to love and serve the less fortunate around us.



Mother Teresa was canonized ***St. Teresa of Calcutta*** in 2016 and respectfully honouring both her name, and her canonization as a Saint are important to include together as part of her legacy and the legacy of our new school.

Conclusions

On behalf of the Diocese of London and the South Chatham Catholic Elementary School Transition Committee, with confidence that it has the support of our community, I am pleased to present to the Board of Trustees for endorsement the name of ***St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School*** for the new south Chatham school, currently under construction on Tweedsmuir Avenue, Chatham.

Recommendations

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Name Selected by the Catholic Community for New South Chatham School*, **for information.**

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board officially endorse the name brought forward by the school communities and in consultation with the Diocese of London - *St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School* – for the new south Chatham Catholic elementary school, currently under construction on Tweedsmuir Avenue, Chatham.